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INCOMING TELEGRAM

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FROM: Brussels

TO : Secretary of State

NO : 618, April 15

Control 5940
Rec'd April 15, 1950
2:39 p.m.

PRIORITY

0535

XR
755.00

King Leopold's transcribed radio address was broadcast to nation at 6:45 p.m. today, admitting that despite popular consultation March 12, Belgian opinion was still divided on issue of his return and that political crisis had been prolonged many weeks. King called on people to unite on basis of constitutionality and concord. Principal merit of constitutional monarchy was to place chief of state above party politics concerned only with welfare of nation. King urged respect for law and acceptance by all of acts of constitutional authority. If Parliament asked him to resume his perogatives, it would be his duty to reign and he hoped to resume his powers under conditions permitting of national unity. Leopold recalled that under constitutional procedure in Scandinavian Kingdoms it was possible for sovereign to delegate powers to Crown Prince. If Belgian Parliament recalled him to throne, he was willing temporarily delegate powers to Crown Prince until such time as he (Leopold) judged necessary. However, he could only take such step if majority of Belgian public opinion favored it as well as principal political parties. King ended brief address with asseveration "To serve my country is my supreme aim". He closed with appeal for reconciliation among all Belgians.

MURPHY

MAM:HJC

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY J.L. SMITH DATE NOV 1 9 1982

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